

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COMMITTEE: REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2010**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS	GOODSPEED	MICHAEL SWAN, DIRECTOR, REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES
	BENTLEY	FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN
	THOMAS	PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/ATTORNEY
	MERLINO	JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
	STEC	KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
	MCDEVITT	SUPERVISORS

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

SUPERVISOR GIRARD

LOEB  
STRAINER  
TAYLOR  
VANNESS  
WOOD

DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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Mr. Goodspeed called the meeting of the Real Property Tax Services Committee to order at 11:01 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Michael Swan, Director of Real Property Tax Services (RPTS), who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Swan presented corrections from the Treasurer's Office for Niagara Mohawk d/b/a National Grid property in the City of Glens Falls which reflected Court ordered changes in assessments for 2009 and 2010.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the corrections from the Treasurer's Office as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 17, 2010 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Swan informed that the platform currently in use for the tax mapping software package used by the RPTS Office would require updating at an estimated cost of \$3,000. He apprised that the New York State (NYS) Office of Cyber Security had asked if Warren County had an interest in a Federal grant to consolidate Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties into one platform thereby rendering cost savings for the counties. Mr. Swan apprised that he had initially been in favor of participation until the Grant Coordinator from the United States Department of the Interior informed him that an exact accounting of County personnel time was required to match the \$40,000. As a result of the matching fund stipulation, he said, the grant would not be feasible for the County at this time.

Addressing pending items, Mr. Swan informed that the Treasurer had approved certificates requesting that three parcels in the Towns of Queensbury, Hague and Johnsburg with possible

environmental contamination issues be changed to tax exempt status. Chairman Monroe questioned how long the properties would remain tax exempt and Mr. Swan stated the properties would remain tax exempt until the sale or resolve of the contamination issue. He further explained that Real Property Tax Law Section 1138 stated that such properties be made exempt until corrective action was completed. Mr. Swan conveyed his support for such action which would temporarily stop the accruing of taxes. Mr. Goodspeed pointed out that the County made school and Town taxes whole and therefore the tax exempt status would result in cost savings for the County. Chairman Monroe asked if the County would continue to hold the tax liens on the properties and Mr. Swan replied affirmatively.

With regard to the 2012 reassessment, Mr. Swan advised that additional time was required for preparation and he would present the information at a future meeting.

Pertaining to new business, Mr. Swan apprised that the New York State Assessors Association and the County Directors Association had worked collaboratively with New York State to create the Uniform Assessment Standards document to serve as a guideline for the assessors and the municipalities to engender improved understanding and equitable assessments. He noted that some municipalities had adopted the Assessment Standards document as policy and others used it as a guideline. Mr. Goodspeed suggested that the eight page Uniform Assessment Standards document be reviewed by Committee members and added to the pending list for discussion at a future meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Swan informed that 2011 foreclosure activity had commenced with between 600 and 620 parcels. He noted that parcels were being paid off at a rate of between three to four per day.

As there was no further business to come before the Real Property Tax Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Stec, Mr. Goodspeed adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist